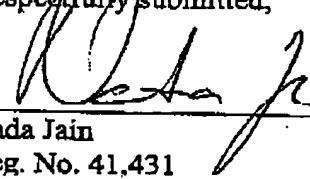


REMARKS

As required under 35 USC 120, the above-identified patent application is being amended to add a specific reference to its parent applications. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,


Nada Jain
Reg. No. 41,431

Date: March 12, 2004

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of : DECISION ON PETITION
 Kati A. Chevaux, et al. : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
 Application No. 10/176,126 :
 Filed: June 19, 2002 :
 Atty Docket No. 5677-182 :
 :
 :

This is in response to a communication filed June 4, 2004, requesting a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed on March 12, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application set forth in the amendment filed concurrently with the petition.

The petition is GRANTED.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application(s), unless previously submitted;¹
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

¹ Any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending applications or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain a reference (amendment to the first line of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet (ADS) to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to other related applications may be made when appropriate (see § 1.14).

Application No. 10/176,126

Page 2

(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant pending application was filed on June 19, 2002, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. A reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii).

The statement contained in the instant petition is being construed as the statement required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3). Petitioner must notify the Office if this is not a correct interpretation of the statement contained in the instant petition.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed application was submitted during the pendency of the instant nonprovisional application. See 35 U.S.C. § 120. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the prior-filed nonprovisional application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed nonprovisional application, accompanies this decision on petition.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application(s) under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application(s). In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application(s), all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met.
Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is

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Application No. 10/176,126

Page 3

entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center Art Unit 1654 for consideration by the Examiner of the amendment filed March 12, 2004, including applicant's claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (2) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to Sherry D. Brinkley at 703-305-9220.

Frances M. Hicks
Frances M. Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
For Patent Examination Policy

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt